

(Continued from the first page.)

## LOCAL NEWS.

NEW YORK AND THE VICINITY.

**ST. VALENTINE'S DAY.**—ITS OBSERVANCE IN THE OLDE TIME.—**MODERN INNOVATIONS, ETC.**—Tomorrow will be St. Valentine's Day—the day which for nearly sixteen hundred years has been the annual period when soft epistles are indited by soft heads to soft hearts that have been torn into shreds by the thrusts of Cupid's arrow. It is the occasion on which the wounds of Love are healed by a two-shilling valentine, more or less according to the extent of the laceration. As the infection of Love is dreaded more than the small-pox by some people, few divorce records reflect the importance that attaches to Valentine's day makes it well worthy of notice. It is particularly so for the reason that it concerns all people alike, the malady being something of the nature of measles—every person is likely to be taken with it at some stage of its life.

Why St. Valentine's Day was selected as the occasion for sending amorous prints and love missives is a question for speculation. St. Valentine himself is not known to have devoted much of his time to love matters. On the contrary, he was a very zealous Roman priest who, with Marcus and his family, assisted the martyrs during the time of their persecution by Claudius I. For this assistance he was apprehended and sent before the Prefect of Rome, who used every means to induce him to renounce his faith. All efforts to this end proved ineffectual; he was sentenced to be beaten with clubs and afterwards to be beheaded. The sentence was executed February 14th, A. D. 270, and it is the anniversary of this execution that is now known as St. Valentine's Day.

The following is probably the true reason for the observance of St. Valentine's day by amorous swains and maidens. It was the practice in ancient Rome during a great part of the month of February to celebrate the Lupercalia, feasts in honor of Pan and Juno, hence the latter deity was named Februa, Februalia, and Febrilia. On this occasion the names of young women were amid a variety of ceremonies, put into a box and drawn from thence by young men, as chance directed. The early Christian Fathers, and particularly St. Francis de Sales, endeavored to eradicate this superstition, and substituted the names of saints instead of women on the occasion. As the festival commenced about the middle of February, St. Valentine's day was chosen for celebrating this new feast, because it occurred about the same time. It was found impossible, however, to totally extirpate any custom, to which the common people were habituated, and accordingly the outline of the ancient ceremonies was preserved. The practice then of choosing mates must have been reciprocal between the sexes, and those so chosen were called "Valentines," on account of the choice taking place on St. Valentine's day. The leading feature in the olden time observance of St. Valentine's Day, was the drawing of a kind of lottery. An equal number of swains and maidens used to get together on the eve of this day, and go through the ceremony of choosing their valentines. Each member of the company would write his or her name upon a slip of paper, and when the whole were well mixed, were drawn by lot, and the name of a person thus drawn was called the valentine of the drawer. When a young man and a maiden happened to draw the names of each other, the circumstance was regarded as a forerunner of a match between the parties, and this simple ceremony was often instrumental in drawing bashful lovers into the nuptial matrimonial. There is also an old superstition, which is still current in some countries, that all meetings between unmarried people, on St. Valentine's morning, will eventuate in marriage.

Such was St. Valentine's Day in the olden time, and it was these characteristics that are alluded to by Shakespeare, Chaucer, Walter Scott and their contemporaries. But St. Valentine's Day in these degenerate times is quite another thing. All the romance has been detached from it, and it is now simply made the occasion by lovers for sending French ornamented paper work, on which are figures looking like milk-fed babies, supposed to represent the little God of Love. And even this is the best feature of its modern observance. The more common one is the sending of outrageous caricatures to other parties, usually to gratify, in a base and contemptible manner the ill-feeling of the sender. Such conduct is of course indulged in only by boorish and ill-bred people. Nobody having any claim to respectability would be guilty of using so despicable a means for gratifying potty malice. Yet it is into this custom that the old romance of Valentine's Day has drifted, as can readily be seen by the immense assortment of outrageously-looking daubs that are displayed in the windows of the print-sellers, under the appellation of "comic valentines."

The display of sentimental valentines at the present time is very good, and sighing swains who are troubled with crinoline fever will no doubt be able to please their inamoratas at the expense of their pockets. The custom is a very innocent one, and as it is not calculated to lead to anything worse than matrimony, there can be no reasonable objection to it—particularly in view of the present facilities for obtaining divorces. St. Valentine's Day is naturally made the occasion, also on which disconsolate lovers give vent to their pent-up misery. It is a kind of annual safety-valve, through which love-sick youth let of lugubrious bursts of unrequited love. One of this class of sighing swains has furnished us with the following rhythmical expression of his feelings. Cupid has evidently been running the poor fellow's heart through a patent sausages chopper, and the paper on which his lines are inscribed show that he has shed several pints of bitter tears. Here it is:

O! fairest of earth's fairest girls,  
With noble brow and gentle mien  
With pearly teeth and raven curl,  
Come to my arms sweet Ev'leen;  
The form is shrined within this heart  
Whose ev'ry pulse sweet maid is thine  
O! come and never more will part,  
My darling dark-haired Valentine.

Alas! I miss thy graceful form  
From my side, my fairy queen;  
I miss thy breath so soft and warm  
From this pale cheek, sweet Ev'leen;  
Lie a' th' th' when thou'rt not nigh,  
And sorrow only can be mine;  
Then come and bid me cease to sigh,  
My charming dark-haired Valentine.

that grand preparations have been made to meet the wishes of every customer. Bashful youths may select the most modest epistles, and blithe swains will have an opportunity of declaring their passion in the strongest and most amatory style. Returning maidens may coyly talk to their undivided lovers, and forward misses can choose verses prepared for the purpose of "popping the question" to some favored individual, who has hitherto neglected to see the "love beam in the eye" that cast its shy glances towards him on sundry occasions. If the lover cannot afford to invent many stamps for valentines, he can be accommodated with a very fair assortment for a small sum of currency; but if the liberal swain has plenty of greenbacks, he may spend them according to inclination on the tasteful box-enveloped affair, costing from one to one hundred greenback dollars. It is believed by those in the business that the ladies will be the best customers this year. The young men being scarce, or in the army, the girls will be sharper than usual and take advantage of the recurrence of St. Valentine's Day, to shoot with Cupid's arrows at every eligible beau within reach of the love-shafts that may be legitimately launched at the obstinate masculine hearts. Hence the rival claims of different young women will be vigorously prosecuted, doubtless to the satisfaction of the successful fair one, and the mortification of whoever falls. All this will probably benefit the postmen, and if they have a hard day's work to perform, at the end their pockets will be lined with stamps enough to reconcile them to the extra fatigue of delivering the missives posted on St. Valentine's Day.

**THE WEATHER, SKATING, ETC.**—Since the rain storm which occurred in the early part of last week, we have had two or three fine days, which the skaters throughout the city generally took advantage of. On Saturday especially the lovers of this exhilarating sport enjoyed themselves to their hearts' content. Both ponds in Central Park were crowded, as were all the others throughout the city. On the Fifth avenue pond a grand carnival took place. Two fine bands were engaged, and waltzing, quadrilling and dancing of various kinds took place on the ice. At night the pond was brilliantly illuminated, and the festivities were kept up till midnight. The night still continues beautifully clear and fine up to 4 o'clock yesterday morning, when a snow storm set in and continued without intermission until about 4 o'clock in the afternoon. The snow was drifted in some places more than two feet deep, and railroad travel was extremely difficult. Double teams were in requisition, and double overcoats and cloaks enveloped those who ventured into the streets. A sharp frost set in last evening, and doubtless, if to-day proves fine, the lovers of good skating will again wend their way to the ponds. Talking of skating, it is understood that the Arion Society whose grand masked ball at the Academy of Music recently was such a success will shortly get up a fancy dress skating carnival. If so, there is little doubt that it will be the most brilliant affair of the season.

**THE VOLUNTEERING COMMITTEE** met on Saturday, and resolved to increase the county bounty, in conformity with the provisions of the State Bounty Bill, as follows: For one year recruits, \$300; two years, \$400; three years, \$600. They also determined to offer as hand money, for one year men, \$50; two year men, \$75; three year men, \$100. The Committee decided to meet daily, hereafter, in the Mayor's office, and put forth every possible effort to fill the quota, \$225,000 of the bounty fund has been subscribed, and the Controller is confident that the \$748,000 remaining will soon be taken.

**THE BOUNTY FRAUDS.**—On Saturday Col. Baker's detectives made an investigation of the naval recruiting business on board the North Carolina. A large number of fraudulent certificates of enlistments were found. Several arrests were also made, including Capt. McMahon, a well known beauty broker. The Captain was found concealed in a house up town. Several other important developments were made, and the work is still progressing.

IT IS REPORTED THAT HENRY S. FOOTE, ex-member of the rebel Congress, embarked for Liverpool on Saturday, on board the steamer City of Cork, and that he was not incarcerated in Fort Warren, as previously stated. He is seeking the "queeneated spot" that he so feelingly alluded to in his valedictory address to the rebel Congress; he is going in the wrong direction. Instead of going East, he should seek westward, of course.

**GENERAL STAHL** has been appointed to a military command in this city in relation to the approaching draft.

**SALARIES TO THE COMMON COUNCIL.**—A bill to pay the members of the Common Council salaries \$2,000 per annum, in lieu of fees for coach hire and all other services is now pending in the State Senate, and attracts considerable conversation in the City Hall, and among the local politicians generally. The money is to be paid monthly and the bill if passed, will go into operation from the first of January last.

**ANOTHER MASKED BALL.**—The Liederkranz Musical Society will celebrate their anniversary by a grand fancy dress ball, on Thursday next, at the Academy of Music.

**BILLIARDS.**—A grand match came off on Saturday night at Irving Hall, between John Deeny, of Washington, and Melville Foster, of New York, for \$250 a side, which terminated in favor of the latter by \$18 points; the score being Foster 1300, Deeny 1122.

**CONCERT.**—The pupils of the Five Points House of Industry will give a concert at the Academy of Music to-morrow evening, for the benefit of the poor.

**THE ATTENTION** of the Roman Catholic readers of the Sun, and the public generally, is called to the official annual report for 1864, of the R. C. Orphan Asylum of this city, which will be found in this day's paper.

**ACCIDENTS.**—Coroner Gover held an inquest on Saturday, on the body of Chas. Reiter, aged 18, who died from the result of injuries received by falling into a coal-hole, through an insecure grating, in front of G. Walker's. The jury construed the owner of the premises for not securing the grating after having been repeatedly notified that it was a danger and insecure condition. Frank Muller, a German residing at 324 East 15th st., was run over by a truck driven by Geo. Palmer, at the corner of 14th st. and Avenue A, and very seriously injured. Taken to Bellevue Hospital, on Saturday, Coroner Collin held an inquest on the body of Duncan McClarren, 12 years of age, who died from injuries received in falling through the hatchway at 114 Clinton st. The jury rendered a verdict of accidental death.

**THE CLOSING EXERCISES** of the Female Evening School in Vandewater st., 4th Ward, took place on Friday evening, the 10th inst. The order and discipline of this school during the session reflects much credit on the Principal, Miss Fitzpatrick, and Vice Principal, Miss O'Leary, on whom

the entire management of this evening school devolved. The selection of dubious songs, &c., for this occasion, was made with good taste, and they were elegantly executed by the pupils designated for each part. A solo solo by Miss Ward was most excellent; the reading of their addresses by Miss Masterson deserved to be praised.

**FIRE.**—About midnight four o'clock on Saturday morning a fire broke out on the third story of No. 60 John street, used as a silver-plating establishment by Messrs. A. Babcock & Co. The fire extended to the fourth story and thence to the roof, when falling into the roof of the first floor and the central wall. The loss of Messrs. Babcock & Co. was \$1,000. Insured for \$16,000. Messrs. J. H. Bates & Co. dealers in cotton goods, leather and skins, occupied the first floor. They had been insulated at least once, and had a gas pipe for protection against fire. The building was owned by J. G. Walcott, and J. G. Walcott, Esq., a lawyer, who is the son of George Walcott, a man who was a member of the firm of Walcott & Walcott, and who was a member of the firm which is at present in existence. At half past six yesterday morning the fire was an hour old, but was soon got under, and no further damage was done.

**POLICE INTELLIGENCE.**—**Aрест of an English Counterfeiter.**—**Extensive Seizure of Instruments and Counterfeit Money.**—John Camp, otherwise known as John C. Camp, a Frenchman, living in Elizabeth near 9th st. n. w., was arraigned before Justice Dodge on Saturday, charged with passing counterfeits in money. About two weeks since, Jefferson Scott was introduced to Camp by Martin Wallert. Scott represented that he was a sailor in the army, when Camp, as alleged, sold him a sum of money, which he could sell at \$20 per hundred; also that he had just finished some beautiful plates on the Mechanics' Bank of New Haven, and another plate for manufacturing \$5 bills on the Bank of Northfield, at Northfield, Vermont. Camp agreed to sell the \$5 bills for \$3, but said that he would sell \$6,000 worth at \$12 per hundred. Scott had several interviews with Camp, and eventually agreed to meet him on Friday evening, when he would buy \$100 of the \$5 cent postal currency, \$3,000 of the \$5 bills of the N. Y. National Bank, and \$1,000 in \$10's on the Mechanics' Bank of New Haven. The money was to be sent in a post office box in the center of 5th street and 8th avenue, where Scott was to receive and pay for the counterfeits. Before the business was commenced, however, Scott informed U. S. Detective, a member of the police force, which then appeared on the scene, to the effect that he was to arrest Camp. The latter was at the place of meeting at the appointed hour, when he was arrested. The latter was at the door of the house of the detective, and was surrounded by officers, who found all the counterfeit money Scott had agreed to buy on his person. Camp was taken to the 29th Precinct House and locked up. Officer Ryder, Detective Glynn, and Mr. Scott then visited Camp's lodgings, where they found plates for printing counterfeit money, dies, plates, ink, Acetone, with about \$100 in gold and \$100 on the Bank of N. Y. and Mechanics' Banks of New Haven, all signed and ready for circulation. The bills are beautifully engraved, but are printed on poor paper. Among the plates was a very perfect one for striking of \$5 cent postal currency. The prisoner, together with the money and materials, were taken before Justice Dodge, who committed him to jail for examination, and sent him to the Tombs for trial. After everything appeared to be amicably settled, the two men were released on bail, and entered into an agreement with Elise to give a certain sum of money to prevent further proceedings, which he expressed a willingness to accept. A meeting between the two men was then arranged upon, and they met with some friends at a grocery store. After everything appeared to be amicably settled, Elise added \$100, which he was to give to the detective, and then beat him over the head with the stock of the weapon. The injured man was conveyed to the City Hospital, where he lies in a senseless condition. He was visited yesterday by Coroner Barrett, who had him committed to jail, and was a member of the Presbyterian Church at Greenpoint.

**DISCHARGED FROM CUSTODY.**—Walter H. Holmes, who was arrested some time since by John C. Oliver, with knocking him down on the 29th Precinct, was released on the 11th instant, after being held for a week. He was admitted to the Bark House, lying at the foot of Prospect, for while walking on the deck, on Saturday morn, he fractured his thigh. Both were conveyed to the City Hospital.

an interview between Secretary Stanton and the pastors of fifteen or twenty colored churches. The Secretary asked these preachers for information in reference to the sentiments of the colored race on the subject of the existing war, the past condition of the race, and what they desired in future. What they required to make them free and visible, and how they regarded the United States Government, &c. The answers were to the effect that the colored people desired to live in cultivate and freedom to exercise their own talents, being content to stand or fall according to their abilities. They stated that this war was considered an act of Providence which would bring them out of bondage, and although some might not be willing to fight for their masters, others would do so through fear. The pastors agreed in believing that the negroes were faithful to the United States Government, and many would enlist in the Northern armies. They also thought it desirable to be set apart in certain places, where they could manage for themselves. They spoke of General Sherman in terms of praise and warmly alluded to him as the universal liberator.

**THE NUMBER OF DEATHS** last week, in Brooklyn, numbered 137. Among them were six cases of small pox and nine of scarlet fever.

**ACCIDENTS.**—Mr. Dennis Downey, of the American Engineers of the Brooklyn Fire Department, fell on his sword, near the corner of Myrtle Avenue, and Bridge st., on Saturday night, and fractured one of his legs.

George C. Camp, a sailor, belonging to the bark Bark House, lying at the foot of Prospect, for while walking on the deck, on Saturday morn, he fractured his thigh. Both were conveyed to the City Hospital.

## WILLIAMSBURGH.

**PROBABLE MURDER.**—About two o'clock yesterday morning a shooting affair occurred in Greenpoint, which will probably prove fatal. It is alleged that a man named Francis Hill, residing on the corner of Eagle street and Union avenue, had a difficulty recently with a young German named Henry Jansen, in consequence of the former's having hit the latter in the head with a stick.

At 2 o'clock Saturday night, Hill, who was a sailor, was walking along the beach, when he was struck in the head with a stick.

He fell to the ground, and was struck in the head again.

He was then picked up, and carried to the Bark House, lying at the foot of Prospect.

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